

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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----- 027449

R 311400Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1342

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: GOP CRACKS DOWN ON NON-OFFICIAL CENSORSHIP

REF: LISBON 5301

SUMMARY: GOP OFFICIALS HAVE DEMONSTRATED IN THREE RECENT INSTANCES INCREASING TOUGHNESS IN DEALING WITH EFFORTS BY GROUPS OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT TO IMPOSE THEIR OWN FORMS OF CENSORSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH LEGALLY DEAD, CENSORSHIP IN PORTUGAL SURVIVES VIA (A) RELUCTANCE ON PART OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS TO RISK INCURRING FINES AND/OR SUSPENSION ORDERS BY PUBLISHING STORIES ON CERTAIN DELICATE SUBJECT, AND (B) REFUSAL BY NON-GOVERNMENT NON-JOURNALISTIC GROUPS (PRINTERS, VENDORS, ETC.) TO PRINT OR  
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ALLOW TO BE DISTRIBUTED PUBLICATIONS NOT TO THEIR LIKING.

FIRST OF THESE CENSORSHIP AREAS WILL UNDERGO SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION ONCE NEW PRESS LAW (ENVISIONING ELIMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVELY- IMPOSED PENALTIES) IS PROMULGATED; SECOND, UNTIL RECENTLY, HAS GONE VIRTUALLY UNCHECKED-- LEAVING DAILY PRESS OPEN TO "PROGRESSIVE" CURRENTS WHILE "FASCIST" VIEWS HAVE BEEN REGULARLY EXCLUDED.

2. RECENTLY GOP HAS SHOWN IT INTENDS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT NON-OFFICIAL CENSORSHIP. IT HAS GIVEN OK FOR PUBLICATION OF MARCELO CAETANO'S "DEPOIMENTO," DEMANDED THAT NEWSPAPERS ACCEPT COMMERCIAL PRINTING OF (MODERATELY CONSERVATIVE) CDS' PARTY PROGRAM, AND BROKEN WOULD-BE BOYCOTT OF LIBERAL WEEKLY "EXPRESSO." IN EACH CASE GROUPS RESPONSIBLE FOR CENSORSHIP ATTEMPT HAVE BEEN "LEFTIST;" PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) APPEARS INVOLVED IN EACH CASE, BUT NEITHER PROMINENTLY NOR EXCLUSIVELY.

3. DEPOIMENTO: GOP GAVE GO-AHEAD IN NOVEMBER FOR PUBLICATIONS; PRINTERS UNION REFUSED TO PRINT BOOK; MDP (COMMUNIST INFLUENCED PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT) AND PCP ADOPTED POSITION THAT "REACTIONARY/FASCIST" WORKS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED SEE LIGHT OF DAY; INITIAL GOP DECISIONS (TO WHICH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES AND PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES COMMITTED) REAFFIRMED AND REITERATED IN PUBLIC DECLARATIONS BY MIN WHTOUT PORTFOLIO VICTOR ALVES AND COPCON HEAD SARAIVA DE CARVALHO.

4. CDS PARTY PROGRAM: AS REPORTED REFTEL, TWO FULL PAGES OF COMMERCIALY PURCHASED TEXT APPEARED IN NOV. 25 ISSUE OF "DIAIRO DE NOTICIAS," SUBSEQUENT TO PUBLICATION EMBASSY LEARNED THAT WORKERS AT DIARIO AND SECOND LISBON MORNING NEWSPAPER "SECULO" HAD REFUSED TO PRINT PROGRAM, THAT DIARIO WORKERS VOTED TO ALLOW PRINTING AFTER VICTOR ALVES (MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR MASS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY) WARNED THEM GOP WOULD NOT TOLERATE CENSORSHIP ATTEMPT AND WOULD PRINT PROGRAM IN ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT'S "BULLETIN" IF DAILY PRESS DID NOT CARRY IT; EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT PCP ELEMENTS AT DIARIO REVERSED SELVES AFTER ALVES' WARNING AND VOTED FOR PUBLICATION: PUBLICATION PUT OUT BY FAR-LEFT (ANTI-PCP) JOURNALISTS CONFIRMS STORY ON ALVES' INTERVENTION AND MAKES CLEAR GROUP IT REPRESENTS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED BOTH PUBLICATION OF CDS PROGRAM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND GOP'S INFORMATION POLICY LINE.

5. EXPRESSO BOYCOTT: DEC. 14 ISSUE PUBLISHED, BUT DISTRIBUTION BLOCKED BY MILITANTS OF "UNION OF NEWSPAPER VENDORS" VENDORS BOYCOTT ALLEGEDLY DUE TO THEIR DESIRE RAISE OWN CUT FROM PAPER'S SALE FROM 20 TO 25 PER CENT; EXPRESSO EDITORS DENOUNCED BOYCOTT AS POLITICALLY INSPIRED, WITH PHYSICAL INTIMIDATION OF EXPRESSO EMPLOYEES ATTEMPTING DISTRIBUTE

PAPERS AND SABOTAGING OF DELIVERY TRUCKS; MASS COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTRY DECRIED "REGRETTABLE ATTITUDE OF COMPULSION" ON  
DEC. 17, SUMMONED UNION AND NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVES TO  
MINISTRY ON 18TH AS BOYCOTT CONTINUED, ANNOUNCED GOP WOULD  
TOLERATE NEITHER DISTURBANCES TO PUBLIC ORDER NOR NEWSPAPER  
BOYCOTTS AND FORCED UNION TO END BOYCOTT IMMEDIATELY.  
EXPRESSO DISTRIBUTED NORMALLY THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH A (EUROPEAN) PORTUGUESE EDITION OF  
"DEPOIMENTO" IS YET TO APPEAR ON PORTUGUESE BOOKSHELVES,  
SOME 10,000 COPIES OF THE BRAZILIAN EDITION HAVE BEEN IMPORTED  
AND SOLD LOCALLY AND THE GOVT. HS CLEARLY COMMITTED ITSELF  
TO MAKING THE BOOK AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. IN THE CASE OF  
THE CDS' EFFORT TO PURCHASE NEWSPAPER SPACE COMMERCIALY, THE  
GOVT. MOVED FROM ISSUING PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPLE TO  
BEHIND-THE-SCENES FIRMNESS AND MENACING OF WOULD-BE CENSORS.  
EXPRESSO INCIDENT SHOWED THE GOVT. WILLING NOT ONLY TO MOVE  
FIRMLY, BUT THIS TIME PUBLICLY AS WELL. THE SURPRISINGLY  
TOUGH, UNCOMPROMISING LANGUAGE WHICH TOP MINISTRY OFFICIALS  
(MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT) EMPLOYED IN TELLING-OFF  
UNION WAS CARRIED IN DAILY PRESS AND, VIA PORTUGUESE RADIO AND  
TELEVISION, GOT THROUGH TO PUBLIC IN PRIME TIME.

7. WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT THE ENEMIES OF A FREE PRESS IN  
PORTUGAL (GROUPS ON FAR LEFT, PCP, MDP) HAVE SUFFERED THESE  
REVERSES. RUMORS CURRENTLY ARE CIRCULATING TO EFFECT THAT  
PCP AND MDP SEEK TO GUT NEW PRESS LAW (WHICH WAS SUPPOSED  
TO BE PROMULGATED BEFORE YEAR'S END) BY INSISTING ON RETENTION  
OF AD HOC PRESS COMMISSION AND SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATIVELY  
IMPOSED FINES AND SUSPENSION ORDERS. OUTCOME OF THIS BATTLE  
WILL BE ANOTHER INDICATOR OF DIRECTION IN WHICH GOP HEADING.  
SCOTT

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## Message Attributes

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